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NSC BRIEFING

29 September 1955

THE NEW ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT

- I. Conditions will be unsettled for some time to come.
- A. Difficult see how President Lonardi can comply with stated desire to hold elections in 6 - 7 months.
1. Peronista Party only one with any organization. Would probably poll strong plurality if not majority if elections held soon.
2. Date for elections is uncertain.
- a.
- b. Navy supports Lonardi in desiring to hold elections in 6 months; but
- b. Army holds 18 months needed to pacify country.
- B. Service rivalries, as exemplified by Army-Navy views on elections, may be serious.
1. vice president Adm. Rojas has stated that Navy should leave government if Navy demands not met.
2. Lonardi has little army support, chosen president through intervention of his brother, a rear admiral in the navy.
3. Strong men in army are ^{Major} Brig. General ^{Brig. General} Julio Lagos and Leon Bengoa.
- C. Cabinet made up mainly of little-known individuals, appointments not yet final. (for details, see appendix)

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D. General Confederation of Labor maintaining some independence.

- 1. Has made no public profession of allegiance to new government.**
- 2. Secretary-General Hugo di Pietro announced guarantees secured from Lonardi:**
 - a. Guarantee of Peron's safety**
 - b. No government control of CGT unions**
 - c. All workers' rights to be maintained**
 - d. Government would not deprive CGT of former independent newspaper "La Prensa" (However, court action expected).**

II. Nationalistic influences may be strong in new government.

A. Pending pact with Standard Oil of California is likely to be rejected.

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- 1. Lonardi publicly expressed belief pact not advantageous to Argentina, said would get equipment "for us to drill on our own".**
- 2. Most anti-Peronistas and some Peronistas were opposing pact prior to Peron ouster.**

B. However, Lonardi has publicly rejected Peron's "third position" in international affairs.

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III. Reactions to Peron ouster.

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A. New government recognized by 24 countries.

B. In Paraguay

1. General staff pressing President Stroessner to permit Peron only a brief intransit entry,

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2. [redacted] army leaders also pressing for ouster pre-Peron elements from Paraguayan government.

a. Chief target, Central Bank President Mendez Fleitas, not Communist but Communist-linked.

b. Mendez ouster would probably threaten stability Paraguayan government.

C. 26 September arrests in Venezuela of two army officers on charges of conspiracy against government there believed by American ambassador due to dictator Perez Jimenez's anxiety roused by Argentine revolution.

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